

**COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 (10 a.m.)

888-494-4032

Access code: 6552044636

I. Welcome

Kimberly Wasserman, Chairperson, EJ Commission

II. Introductions

A. Teleconference

- **Ken Page, IEPA**
- **Kim Wasserman, LVEJO**
- **Joe Mitchell, IDPH**
- **Rep. Mike Fortner**
- **Keith Harley**
- **Diane Lopez-Hughes**
- **Amy Funk**
- **Sharonda Williams**

III. Housekeeping

- **Ken Page, IEPA-** Things have changed since the new Governor was appointed. Lisa Bonnett is still the Director at IEPA. Joe Mitchell is still representing IDPH. Commission representatives from Aging, IDNR and DCEO have received their pink slips and will not be returning. I have not heard from Bola Delano at IDOT.

New positions will be filled and new directors will have to take a look at the Commission.

- Joe Mitchell, IDPH- IDPH has a new director. We haven't gotten information about who it is yet. Veronica Holloway is the new director of Minority Services so she may be interested in participating.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Mary McDonald and IEPA's Associate Director are no longer with the Agency.
- Ken Page, IEPA- New Director's are automatically put on Commission by statute.
- Kimberly Wasserman, LVEJO- When will we find out who we need to speak with at the agencies?
- Ken Page, IEPA- I had a meeting in regard to who we need to speak with at the Governor's office. Probably at the end of the month agencies will start coming together. Perhaps State Rep. Fortner can clarify for us.
- Rep. Mike Fortner- We are still digesting the changes on the legislative side and committees are still being structured.
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO- I would like the Commission to send thank you letters to the Commissioners who are no longer with us.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Diane Lopez-Hughes, Amy Funk and Keith Harley have had their appointments approved.
- Kimberly Wasserman, LVEJO- Brownfields Subcommittee was created as a space for the EJ Commission to get work done. How do we work with environmental justice communities around Brownfields that aren't high priority. How can we improve on sites that can make a difference in the community. Sharonda can you speak a bit on the Brownfields work you have been doing.

- Sharonda Williams- Keith, myself and Kim have taken a role in doing the brownfields work. We fielded the idea of legislation to elected officials during a tour. We told them that we want to take abandoned brownfields and get them redeveloped into community assets. Everyone seemed enthused and interested in a bill to address this issue. We are also looking at the connection between land banks and land trusts in this legislation.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Is legislation from Commission or IEC?
- Sharonda Williams- The legislation is coming out of IEC.
- Diane Lopez-Hughes- Are you looking at Brightfields in this legislation?
- Sharonda Williams- There is legislation being introduced to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Power Plan and they are addressing that in their bill.
- Kimberly Wasserman, LVEJO- We can put you in touch with ELPC since they are taking a lead on the Brownfields Solar language. We want to ensure that the communities are behind these projects.
- Diane Lopez-Hughes- People in the communities would be a part of the monitoring.
- Ken Page, IEPA- What agencies will be impacted by this legislation. This should be shared with the agencies.
- Sharonda Williams-We have been on a very tight deadline to get the bill submitted but we will speak with relevant committees moving forward.
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO- I would like to speak about the tour a bit. IEC invited folks to see some brownfield sites in Little Village. We got such resounding support and we knew that we had to get legislation in that we

could continue to work on. I am excited for the subcommittee to make this as robust as possible. Are there any questions?

- Keith Harley- This is a wonderful consequence of the Commission. A year and a half ago we were speaking about this and now we have legislation. I pledge the support of my law students as the bill progresses.
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO- How about we have another subcommittee call in 2-3 weeks?
- Keith Harley- Agency subcommittee won't have much traction. Clean Power Plan could benefit from focused Commission participation.
- Ken Page, IEPA- It will be difficult to do any agency work because we only have two agency participants. I will have IEPA call and see where we are at.
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO- We didn't schedule an inter-agency call because of all of the changes taking place.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Subcommittee doesn't affect Clean Power Plan.
- Sharonda Williams- Are we taking a stance on the Clean Power Plan?
- Kimberly Wasserman, LVEJO-What are the opportunities for the Commission in the Clean Power Plan? What are the possibilities to interact in the development of the state plan? There are crucial opportunities and we want to clarify our role.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Send me what you are speaking about? I will speak to Kevin at IEPA and he will provide comments. I don't see an opportunity but there might be one.
- Sharonda Williams- What are we doing about the letters?

- Ken Page, IEPA- It might take awhile to get them. We want to push the State so it doesn't lose sight of environmental justice.
- Sharonda Williams- Do we re-send the letters?
- Ken Page, IEPA-We will reach out to the Governor's office to remind them of the Commission and have them send letters to new directors about Commission.
- Ken Page, IEPA- Meeting notice will go out for March meeting. Sharonda please re-send fact sheets saying it was from IEC.